

In the Claims:

1 (currently amended): An assembly for loading and unloading products which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at a first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system suitable for connecting the compass-style duct system to a coupling means installed at a second location;

a cable which is extendable between the first and second locations; means at the first location for subjecting the cable to a constant tension; and

means co-operating with the cable for guiding the connection system along the cable until the connection system is brought into a position adjacent the coupling means;

wherein the guiding means comprises a drive winch which is connected to the connection system and which operates to drive the connection system along the cable when the cable is stretched between the first location and the second location.

2 (canceled).

3 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the cable comprises ~~a first end which is disposed at the first location and a second end which comprises~~ means for co-operating with a

locking system at the second location to thereby keep the cable attached to the second location.

4 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 3, wherein the means for co-operating with the locking system ~~comprise~~ comprises a sleeve which is crimped onto the cable.

5 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the guiding means comprises means for attaching the connection system to the cable and means ~~of~~ for winding the cable, wherein the cable comprises a first end which is connected to the constant tension means and a second end which is connected to the winding means, and wherein the cable is joined to the second location by a return pulley.

6 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 5, wherein the winding means comprises an approach winch which is positioned at the first location.

7 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cable crosses from a first side of the connection system from one side to the other to a second side of the connection system.

8 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the constant tension means comprises an emergency disconnection system for the cable.

9 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 8, wherein the constant tension means comprises a winder and the emergency disconnection system comprises a device for clamping the cable and

for releasing the cable when the cable is unwound beyond a predetermined ~~minimum~~ maximum number of turns.

10 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an alignment guide which is connected to the connection system and which comprises a ring through which the cable passes and which is spaced apart from the connection system.

11 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a rotation device capable of ordering an angular movement of the connection system relative to the compass-style duct system.

12 (currently amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a coupling means fitted with means for fixing to the second location, these coupling means being suitable for co-operating with the~~ said means for coupling the connection system to the second location.

13 (currently amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connection system comprises a female truncated conical element and ~~in that the coupling means comprise~~ comprises a male truncated conical element, ~~the female truncated conical element and the male truncated conical element being suitable for fitting into each other in order to define a relative positioning of the said assembly and said coupling means~~ which is adapted to fittingly engage the female truncated conical element.